UNITED
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28 August 1996
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 7, 10, 39,
76 and 81

NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

LAW OF THE SEA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 27 August 1996 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to our letter dated 21 August 1996 and our note verbale dated 25 July 1996 transmitting the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the so-called "Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea", I have the pleasure to request you to circulate the above-mentioned note verbale as a document of the General Assembly, under items 7, 10, 39, 76 and 81.

(Signed) Gaafar M. ALLAGANY
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 25 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat.

The Mission refers to the law entitled "Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea", which was promulgated on 20 April 1993 and has been communicated to the United Nations Secretariat.

The Government of Saudi Arabia wishes to place on record that it objects to and does not recognize those provisions of the aforesaid Iranian Act on Marine Areas that purport to give the Islamic Republic of Iran powers and jurisdiction that violate or conflict with the consensus of international law and international practice with regard to the legal regime governing seas and straits used in international navigation.

Accordingly, Saudi Arabia declares that it does not recognize or acknowledge any jurisdiction, powers or practices that are assumed or exercised pursuant to the aforesaid Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in such a way as to violate the provisions of international law and international practice and that it does not recognize any restrictions or impositions that may be placed on international navigation in the Gulf and in the Sea of Oman, including passage through the Strait of Hormuz, pursuant to the Iranian law in question.

The Government of Saudi Arabia affirms its legitimate rights vis-à-vis the application of those provisions of the Iranian law in question that are in conflict with or violate the international law of the sea and international practice.

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretariat of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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29 August 1996
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 7, 10 and 39

NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

LAW OF THE SEA

Letter dated 26 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Government of the State of Kuwait on the act promulgated by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 27 May 1993 concerning the delimitation of its marine areas:

"On 27 May 1993 the Islamic Republic of Iran promulgated an act concerning the delimitation of its marine areas. The State of Kuwait does not contest in any way the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to delimit its marine areas, but;

"Considering that the law contains provisions which run counter to the principles of international maritime law, in particular the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which requires States to fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed under the Convention and to exercise the rights, jurisdiction and freedoms recognized in the Convention in a manner which will not constitute an abuse of right; and

"Considering further that the principles of international law require any State signatory to an international convention or bound by it to refrain from any act running counter to the object or purpose of the Convention;

"The State of Kuwait does not consider itself bound by any law running counter to the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 7, 10 and 39.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

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29 August 1996

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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 8 and 65

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 29 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

1. I have seen your note verbale dated 27 August, circulated by the Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in his capacity as Chairman of the Asian Group, about the convening of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on Monday, 9 September 1996 in order to consider the resumption of the consideration of agenda item 65 (Comprehensive test-ban treaty).

2. The note verbale makes a reference to document A/50/1024, dated 22 August, containing a letter from the Permanent Representative of Australia asking for the convening of a plenary session of the General Assembly "to consider and take action on a comprehensive test-ban treaty pursuant to its resolution 50/65 of 12 December 1995".

3. It will be noted that resolution 50/65 refers (in operative paragraph 2) to the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that was to be concluded in the Conference on Disarmament and then to be endorsed by the General Assembly (operative paragraph 6). However, according to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban (document CD/1425, dated 16 August) "no consensus could be reached either on the text or on the action proposed". At present, the Conference on Disarmament is therefore not in a position to present the text of a comprehensive test-ban treaty to the General Assembly for its endorsement.

4. Attention is also drawn to a draft resolution circulated by Australia, indicating that the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty is being submitted separately for circulation as a national document in the General

Assembly. According to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Australia addressed to you, this text is identical to that circulated in the Conference on Disarmament on 22 August 1996 (CD/1427), at the request of the delegation of Belgium, as a national paper. The circulation of this text, at the request of the delegation of Australia, or any other delegation, as a national document in the General Assembly cannot in any way confer such a text with an enhanced status, nor can it circumvent the decisions already taken in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva regarding the non-consensual nature of this text. Should the Assembly decide to resume consideration of agenda item 65, it is clear that endorsement of any national document containing this non-consensus text would be contrary to the relevant provisions of resolution 50/65.

5. I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 8 and 65. This letter is also being copied to the Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in his capacity as Chairman of the Asian Group.

(Signed) Prakash SHAH

UNITED
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General Assembly

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3 September 1996
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Agenda items 8 and 65

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 30 August 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to circulate the following position paper of the Argentine Republic as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 65:

"With the end of the cold war, non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control have acquired renewed importance in the 'Agenda for Peace', and there is now a unique opportunity to ensure that multilateral efforts are not frustrated.

"The Argentine Republic has taken an active part in the negotiation of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, because it firmly believes that the conclusion of such a treaty not only would help to prevent nuclear proliferation, but also would expedite the process of nuclear disarmament.

"The Argentine Republic strongly supports the adoption of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. That calls for a genuine political will and a firm commitment on the part of all the members of the international community.

"In this regard, the Argentine Republic has decided to co-sponsor the draft resolution on this item submitted by Australia, and urges States which have not yet done so to join this initiative as soon as possible.

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"The Argentine Republic is convinced that the conclusion of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty would be a crucial event in fostering international trust, because it would strengthen the growing conviction that nuclear weapons are of no use for the security of nations, and would facilitate the future agenda and the negotiation of other multilateral measures regarding disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control."

(Signed) Ana Maria RAMÍREZ
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 3 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 22 August 1996 from the Australian Ambassador, Mr. Richard Butler, addressed to you, concerning resumed consideration by the General Assembly of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (A/50/1024).

As we understand it, the General Assembly is expected to meet in plenary session on 9 September 1996 to consider and take action on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, pursuant to its resolution 50/65 of 12 December 1995.

We have familiarized ourselves with the draft resolution submitted by Australia concerning the adoption of a decision on this matter. Under the decision, the General Assembly would, inter alia, adopt the aforementioned treaty and invite all States to sign it and, subsequently, become parties to it as soon as possible, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

In connection with the foregoing, I should stress that the Russian Federation supports the text of the treaty as it stands. At the same time, the Russian Federation notes that the option selected for the adoption of the treaty by the General Assembly represents a departure from the existing procedure for the elaboration of multilateral agreements in the Conference on Disarmament. The Russian Federation's agreement to such a course of action is dictated by the exceptional nature of the situation that has arisen with regard to the treaty. Such a decision by the General Assembly on this matter must be without prejudice to the practice and rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, and must not set a precedent for the work of the General Assembly or the Conference on Disarmament.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 65.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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General Assembly

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A/50/1033
3 September 1996
ENGLISH
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 7, 10, 39, 76 and 81

NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

LAW OF THE SEA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 26 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the United Arab Emirates wishes to register its objections to certain provisions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Act on the Marine Areas of 1993, inasmuch as the provisions in question are inconsistent with international law and would impede navigation in the Gulf, including transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

The United Arab Emirates also declines to recognize any provisions of the above-mentioned Act that call into question its sovereignty over the three islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and their territorial waters.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 39, 76 and 81.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly

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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 7, 10, 39, 76 and 81

NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

LAW OF THE SEA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 4 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note verbale dated 20 August 1996 outlining the position of Qatar with regard to the promulgation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the act entitled "Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 7, 10, 39, 76 and 81.

(Signed) Hassan Ali Hussain AL-NI'MAH
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Note verbale dated 20 August 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to inform it that Qatar, after careful consideration of the Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, 1993, is of the opinion that some articles of the aforementioned Act are inconsistent with the provisions of international law. Qatar therefore reserves its rights and the rights of its citizens in this regard.

Qatar would like to draw attention to the fact that the use by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the baseline to measure its territorial sea, in accordance with the above-mentioned Act, contravenes the customary law enshrined in international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This is because there are no geographical phenomena other than natural ones on the Iranian coast to justify using such lines.

Further, the above-mentioned Act states that the waters between islands belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where the distance of such islands does not exceed 24 nautical miles, form part of the internal waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This clearly contravenes the provisions of the law of the sea: the waters between the islands cannot be considered internal waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran except under certain conditions, which do not obtain on the Iranian coastline.

Qatar would also like to refer to article 19, paragraph 2 (h), of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states that "any act of wilful and serious pollution" is considered contrary to the provisions of the Convention. The provisions of article 6 (g) of the Iranian Act are therefore in clear contravention of the Convention with regard to activities prejudicial to the peace and security of the coastal State.

Similarly, it is necessary to refer to article 21, paragraph 4, of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides for compliance with the laws and regulations adopted by a coastal State inasmuch as such laws and regulations conform to generally accepted international regulations. Here, Qatar would like to note that article 7 of the Iranian Act, which states that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran "shall adopt such other regulations as are necessary for the protection of its national interests", gives Iran no more rights than those provided for by the law of the sea.

Article 9 of the Iranian Act states that the passage of warships and nuclear-powered ships and vessels through the Iranian territorial sea is subject to the prior authorization of the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The same article also requires that submarines exercising the right of innocent passage should navigate on the surface, and show their flag. There is no basis for these demands in the 1982 Convention, and Qatar will continue to reject outright such restrictions on the right of innocent passage.

Attention should be paid to the scope of the coastal State's jurisdiction in the contiguous zone, that is, the area adjacent to its territorial sea. It should be confined to the right of the coastal State to exercise the necessary authority in order to prevent contravention of its laws and regulations governing customs, taxes, immigration and health inside its territory or territorial sea. The authority of the coastal State to apply its environmental rules outside its territorial waters was provided for by article 220 of the Convention. The provisions in article 13 of the aforementioned Act regarding measures to be taken in the contiguous zone to prevent the infringement of the environmental and security regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran go well beyond what is permitted by international law.

Similarly, article 14, subparagraph (a), of the Act gives the Islamic Republic of Iran the right to demand greater authority in order to control the laying of marine cables and pipelines on the part of the continental shelf belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran than is permitted by international law and laid down in article 79 of the Convention.

Furthermore, international law permits the coastal State to conduct only marine scientific research in its exclusive economic zone, not 'any kind of research', as stated in article 14, subparagraph (b) (ii), of the aforementioned Iranian Act. Specifically, hydrographical research outside territorial waters is not considered marine scientific research as it is understood in the Convention, and therefore does not come under the jurisdiction of the coastal State.

Qatar would also like to note that article 16 of the Iranian Act, which seeks to prohibit the military aircraft and shipping of other States from exercising the right of innocent passage in the Iranian exclusive economic zone, contravenes the provisions and principles of international law regarding the high seas.

Qatar would like to emphasize that these objections are not intended as criticism of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but merely to clarify the position of the State with respect to the international provisions and principles of the law of the sea as laid down in international customary law, treaties and practices.

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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 95 (a) and 140

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 29 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in order to transmit to you the text of the statement issued by the Movement on 23 August 1996 regarding the so-called "D'Amato Bill", which relates to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if the attached text could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 95 (a) and 140.

(Signed) Julio LONDOÑO PAREDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Statement dated 23 August 1996 by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has traditionally expressed its rejection of unilateral coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure on non-aligned and other developing countries. The Movement is at present concerned about the enactment of the so-called D'Amato Bill of the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The Movement expresses its conviction that the aforementioned legislation is contrary to international law and to the norms and principles governing peaceful and friendly relations among nations. The enactment of the Bill is a blatant violation of the inalienable sovereignty of all States as it attempts to impose the United States law extra-territorially on the international community.

The non-aligned countries remain steadfast in their rejection of actions of this nature against any of its members, as reiterated by the Heads of State or Government at the Eleventh Summit, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Annex II

Letter dated 28 August 1996 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations and pursuant to the meeting between the Permanent Representative of Colombia and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 26 August 1996, has the honour to request that the statement by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries regarding the enactment of the D'Amato Bill against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya be circulated as an official document of the United Nations under agenda items 97 (a), Trade and development, and 143, United Nations Decade of International Law, of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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9 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda items 8 and 65

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The delegation of Australia has circulated, in document A/50/1027 of 26 August 1996, the text of a draft comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

The draft circulated by Australia in document A/50/1027 is the same text as that discussed at Geneva in the Conference on Disarmament, on which a consensus could not be reached. This fact will be reflected in the report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

It is the view of the Government of India that document A/50/1027 has several shortcomings and does not fulfil the mandate that was given to the Conference on Disarmament, which was to negotiate intensively a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which would contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security.

In India's view, several amendments would be required for the draft treaty circulated as Australia's national paper to meet the mandate given by the Conference on Disarmament. These would include the following:

(i) Add the following new preambular paragraph:

"Emphasizing that the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, to be meaningful in the context of a disarmament treaty, must be considered an important step in the process leading to the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specific time-frame."

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(ii) Add the following new paragraphs in article I:

"Each State Party undertakes to refrain from any activity relating to the development, refinement and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons."

"All States Parties commit themselves to taking effective measures for global nuclear disarmament by commencing negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework."

(iii) Replace article XIV, Entry into force, by the following:

"This treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the date of the deposit of the sixty-fifth instrument of ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature."

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 8 and 65.

(Signed) Prakash SHAH

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S/1996/743
11 September 1996
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 44
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 11 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the local inhabitants in which Israel engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place during the second half of July and in August 1996.

17 July 1996

At 2000 hours the environs of Jba' came under fire originating from Israeli positions in the hills opposite. At the same time, Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

18 July 1996

At 1420 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

19 July 1996

At 1600 hours Yatar came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

22 July 1996

At 1700 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

24 July 1996

At 0200 hours Bassam Muhammad Husayn Al-Musawi and Husayn Muhammad Isa received shrapnel wounds after coming under Israeli fire in Qantarah in the Marj Uyun district.

26 July 1996

At 1100 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah area and numerous overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. The same aircraft also made low-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

27 July 1996

At 2050 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

At 1255 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

29 July 1996

The environs of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Ayn Qana, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under artillery bombardment from Israeli positions in the border strip.

30 July 1996

At 2115 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

31 July 1996

At 0900 hours the environs of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under artillery bombardment from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 2235 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

1 August 1996

At 0130 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

2 August 1996

The environs of Libbaya, Qulay'ah and Zillaya in the western Bekaa came under Israeli artillery bombardment, which caused a number of fires in the region. No casualties were reported.

At 2200 hours the environs of Jarju', Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under concentrated artillery bombardment from Israeli positions in the border strip.

4 August 1996

At 1400 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew Baalbek and Sidon, breaking the sound barrier.

5 August 1996

At 0715 hours the environs of Tibnin came under Israeli artillery bombardment while Israeli military aircraft made overflights.

At 0940 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

At 0945 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of Tyre and dropped heat balloons.

10 August 1996

At 1300 hours the environs of Shaqra, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Tibnin and Haris came under Israeli artillery bombardment. No casualties were reported.

At 0700 hours the environs of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha and Tulin came under Israeli artillery bombardment while Israeli helicopters overflew the same area and a number of volleys were fired from various weapons.

11 August 1996

At 1630 hours the environs of Qabrikha, Sawwanah, Majdal Silm, Tulin and Wadi Qaybasah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

13 August 1996

At 1400 hours the environs of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and areas along the Litani river came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

14 August 1996

At 0940 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the town and camps at Sidon.

At 1030 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

15 August 1996

At 1200 hours the environs of Haris in the Bint Jubayl area came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

16 August 1996

At 0530 hours the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, areas along the Nab'at Tasah and the environs of Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

20 August 1996

At 0445 hours Zibqin-Tyre came under Israeli artillery bombardment, which caused material damage to a number of dwellings.

At 2100 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Bint Jubayl area and carried out mock attacks.

23 August 1996

At 1500 hours the environs of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

25 August 1996

At 1245 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the town and camps at Sidon.

26 August 1996

At 0030 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the town and camps at Sidon.

Israel's persistent refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and its continued occupation of Lebanese territory are perpetuating the cycle of violence.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation, the fresh attacks and the arbitrary practices directed against the Lebanese population, which have caused further injuries and have inflicted further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Permanent Representative

UNITED
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13 September 1996
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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 10

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. By its resolution 49/143 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly decided to establish a high-level open-ended working group, under the chairmanship of the President of the General Assembly and with two vice-chairmen, to consider additional measures aimed at ensuring a sound and viable financial basis for the Organization. Also, by its decision 49/496 of 14 September 1995, the Assembly requested the high-level working group to submit to it, through the Fifth Committee, a report on its work, including any possible recommendations, for review before the end of its fiftieth session.

2. At its 67th meeting, on 12 September 1996, the Committee considered the report of the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations. 1/ The comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the report are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.67).

3. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee, without objection, took note of the report of the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session, for action.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/50/43).

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UNITED
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Security Council

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S/1996/752
13 September 1996

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 55
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith for your attention and that of the membership of the General Assembly and of the Security Council the text of a letter dated 11 September 1996 from the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, addressed to the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Rauf Denktash (annex I), enclosing a copy of a letter dated 17 December 1993 from President Clerides addressed to you regarding his proposal on the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus.

I also enclose a copy of a public statement made today (13 September 1996) regarding the situation created after the recent tragic events in Cyprus (annex II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Letter dated 11 September 1996 from the President of Cyprus addressed to Mr. Rauf Denktash

My attention has been drawn to a public interview in which you are reported to have said, inter alia, that we should meet in order to cool the atmosphere and that it does not matter if we do not discuss the Cyprus problem, the fact alone that the two leaders can meet and that we are on speaking terms will mean something.

I fully share your view that steps are needed to cool the situation, but in my view such steps must be convincing. A meeting between us at this stage and a common statement will be unconvincing and will not defuse the situation, but it will give ground for public arguments that will add to the tension.

The reasons I am holding this view are as follows.

There is indisputable photographic and other evidence that in the case of the murder of Solomos Solomou, which occurred on 14 August, Kenan Akin, a settler from Turkey, was aiming his pistol in the direction of the victim and Ertal Emanet, "Police Chief Inspector and Commander of Special Forces", was actually firing his weapon at the victim. Present at the time also were Attila Sav, "Chief of the Turkish Cypriot Police", Lieutenant-General Hassan Kountaksi, Commander at the time of the Turkish Forces in Cyprus, and Major-General Mehmet Karli, Commander of the 28th Infantry Division. Mr. Akin was made "Minister of Agriculture and Forest" on the Turkish side three days after the murder of Solomos Solomou.

You will realize that, as far as the Greek Cypriot community is concerned, a murder committed before so many officials and with the participation of some of them cannot be washed away by a meeting between us and by an appeal for calm.

Regarding the killing of one soldier and the wounding of another of the Turkish side, you have already drawn the premature conclusion and stated publicly that it was a revenge killing by the Greek Cypriot side, without waiting for the result of the independent inquiry of the United Nations or the British bases and without waiting for the result of our investigations.

May I remind you of a similar situation in 1975, when there was much greater tension than now. You telephoned me that a Turkish woman and her children were missing and that a revenge killing was suspected. Despite the great tension at that time, as Acting President of the Republic, I ordered an investigation. As a result, John Antoniou Vouniotis was arrested and tried by a Court. He was convicted and sentenced to death. President Makarios, who as a priest was against the death penalty, reduced his sentence to life imprisonment. He served his sentence. The conviction and sentence contributed greatly to the reduction of tension.

May I also remind you that on another occasion when a Turkish Cypriot was fired upon and killed by a sentry of a National Guard camp, though one might

have claimed that he was unlawfully trying to get into the camp, full compensation was paid to his family.

In my view, a convincing step that we can now take together and which will really and permanently defuse the tension is to meet and discuss the issue of demilitarization on the lines of the proposal I made in my letter to the Secretary-General on 17 December 1993, a copy of which is attached herewith for easy reference (see appendix).

I am also enclosing copies of the photographic evidence.

APPENDIX

Letter dated 17 December 1993 from the President of Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to inform you that I have paid special attention and given deep consideration to paragraph 102 of your report to the Security Council of 22 November 1993 (S/26777), in which you point out:

> "There is every justification for demanding that the two sides on the island, as well as Turkey and Greece, work more effectively for a negotiated settlement, in return for the great efforts of the international community".

During my deliberations regarding what could be done by my Government to contribute effectively towards a negotiated settlement, I took into consideration, inter alia, paragraph 101 (c) of your report, which states

> "The status quo, which the Security Council has deemed to be unacceptable, was established through the use of force and is sustained by military strength",

and paragraph 105, which states:

> "I would urge once again that as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot troops envisaged in the set of ideas, the Turkish forces, on the island be reduced to their level of 1982 and this be reciprocated by a suspension of weapons acquisition programmes on the Greek Cypriot side."

There is no doubt that the massive presence of Turkish military forces in the occupied part of Cyprus creates serious anxieties and mistrust amongst the Greek Cypriot community regarding Turkish intentions. It also imposes on the Government of the Republic the need to increase the defensive capabilities of the country by purchasing arms. Further, it makes it necessary to request military help from Greece and to include Cyprus in the Greek defensive plans. There are also indications that the above preparations, though entirely defensive in their nature, are misinterpreted and cause anxiety and mistrust within the Turkish Cypriot community regarding Greek intentions.

After careful consideration, I came to the conclusion that in order to brake the counter-productive climate of fear and mistrust and thus enhance the prospects of a negotiated settlement the Government of the Republic should take the following steps:

(a) Repeal the National Guard Law, disband the National Guard and hand all its arms and military equipment to the custody of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force;

(b) Undertake to maintain the police force of the Republic at its present numerical strength, armed only with light personal weapons;

(c) Undertake the total cost of a substantially numerically increased United Nations Peace-keeping Force;

(d) Agree that the United Nations Peace-keeping Force will have the right of inspection to ascertain compliance with the above;

(e) Agree that the National Guard armoured cars, armoured personnel vehicles and tanks, which will be handed to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force for custody, can be used by the United Nations Peace-keeping Force to patrol the buffer zone and to prevent intrusions into it;

(f) Deposit in a United Nations account all money saved from disbanding the National Guard and from stopping the purchase of arms, after deducting the cost of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force, to be used after the solution of the problem for the benefit of both communities.

The above offer is made provided the Turkish side agrees also that parallel to the above the Turkish forces are withdrawn from Cyprus and that the Turkish Cypriot armed forces disband and hand their weapons and military equipment to the custody of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force.

I wish also to reaffirm what I told Mr. Feissel before leaving for New York, that is, that I am ready to discuss the modalities regarding the implementation of the confidence-building measures and of course the solution of the Cyprus problem.

I hope the Turkish side will respond positively to my proposal, otherwise the only logical inference to be drawn will be that the massive presence of Turkish forces is not for the alleged safety of the Turkish Cypriot community, but for the perpetuation of the status quo, which, as stated in your report, has been created by military force and is sustained by military strength and which the Security Council has deemed unacceptable. Such an inference will impose on my Government the need to increase substantially the defensive capabilities of the Republic and to enter into arrangements with Greece regarding a common defensive plan.

(Signed) Glafcos CLERIDES
President of the Republic
of Cyprus

ANNEX II

Statement made on 13 September 1996 by the President of Cyprus

I have been carefully considering the situation created after the tragic events that have taken place over the past month. It is my considered view that, despite the fact that the crimes committed have been condemned, nevertheless considerable anxiety exists in Cyprus as a result of the tension they have created.

I therefore felt the necessity to make it absolutely clear that we have not and will not waver from our intention to continue with even more energy the effort to find a solution to the Cyprus problem by peaceful means, through negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, based on the high-level agreements and the relevant United Nations resolutions for a bi-zonal bi-communal federation.

The tragic events should not in any way be interpreted as showing an incompatibility of both communities to live together in peace and prosperity in Cyprus, our common home.

We will take the necessary measures to prevent any escalation of the present tension. I call therefore upon the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to make every effort to defuse the tension in the interest of peace.